

TRIBUTE TO 53RD ANNIVERSARY
OF WORLD WAR II EXERCISE
TIGER OPERATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. HULSHOF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of great and honorable Americans. On Monday, April 28, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 280 in Columbia, Missouri, will pay tribute to the 53d anniversary of the World War II Exercise Tiger operation, in which more than 750 Americans made the ultimate sacrifice.

Few Americans are aware of the circumstances surrounding the Exercise Tiger operation. What began as a top-secret military operation ended in a horrible moment frozen in time. In December 1943, the U.S. Army began conducting a number of training exercises in preparation for the Normandy invasion. These exercises concentrated on a long stretch of beach at Slapton Sands in Devon, England. This unspoiled beach of coarse gravel greatly resembled Omaha Beach, and it consequently made for an ideal simulation of what would be the D-day invasion.

Soldiers engaging in these maneuvers were under constant threat of attack, however, due to the many German E-boats patrolling the English Channel. One such exercise was utilized to prepare United States and British forces and was given the code name Exercise Tiger. These training exercises were conducted from April 22 to 30, 1944. The troops and equipment who participated in this maneuver embarked on the same ships and for the most part from the same ports from which they would later leave for France.

In the early morning hours of April 28, 1944, the convoy was maneuvering in Lyme Bay. Eight landing ship tanks and their lone British escort were en route to the landing area. Suddenly, in the pitch black night, nine German Navy E-boats patrolling the English Channel struck quickly and without warning. The presence of enemy boats was discovered only when the U.S.S. LST-507 was torpedoed. The ship burst into flames and survivors abandoned ship. Minutes later, the LST-531 was torpedoed and sank in 6 minutes. As the convoy returned fire, the U.S.S. LST-289 was also torpedoed, but was able to reach port.

The surprise German attack did not, however, stop Exercise Tiger. Landing operations resumed the next day, on April 29, 1944. This is a credit to the tenacity and determination of the soldiers and sailors involved in Exercise Tiger. The D-day invasion of Normandy occurred as planned. However, casualty information and the details surrounding Exercise Tiger were not released until after the Normandy invasion in an attempt to keep the Germans from learning about the impending attack.

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I believe, Mr. Speaker, it is time we recognize these brave men. Of the 4,000

man force, nearly a quarter were missing or dead. Official Department of Defense records confirm 749 dead, at least 441 Army and 198 Navy casualties, although facts suggest the numbers could be greater.

Mr. Speaker, it is finally time that we acknowledge the indispensable role that members of Exercise Tiger played in preparing for the D-day invasion and in making it a success. To that end, I am proud to acknowledge VFW Post 280 as the first organization in the State of Missouri to commemorate the men of the historic battle of Exercise Tiger. After 53 years these great Americans deserve to be properly honored by those who have benefited so much from their sacrifices.

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE
HEROIC EFFORTS AND SACRIFICES OF THE
AMERICAN SERVICEMEN WHO TOOK PART IN
EXERCISE TIGER AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS
TOWARD THE SUCCESS OF THE HISTORIC D-
DAY INVASION DURING WORLD WAR II

Whereas the D-Day invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, was one of the most heroic battles of World War II and a critical turning point leading to Allied victory;

Whereas during the Exercise Tiger training mission for D-Day, members of the operation were exposed to great danger by carrying out this treacherous exercise in the English Channel during a period of increased German torpedo boat patrols;

Whereas on April 28, 1944, soldiers and sailors of the Exercise Tiger mission were unexpectedly attacked by 9 German Torpedo boats off the coast of Slapton Sands, England;

Whereas 749 American soldiers were killed in the attack;

Whereas the heroic efforts of these soldiers have not been sufficiently recognized in American history;

Whereas the United States Congress has not provided adequate recognition to sailors and soldiers who participated in Exercise Tiger; and

Whereas April 28, 1997 will be the 53rd anniversary of the tragedy of Exercise Tiger: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Servicemen who took part in Exercise Tiger be recognized for their contributions towards the success of the historic D-Day invasion during World War II, preserving the virtues of freedom and democracy.

INDIA'S NEW PRIME MINISTER,
INDER KUMAR GUJRAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate India's new Prime Minister, Inder Kumar Gujral, for winning the vote of confidence of the Indian Parliament this past Tuesday. This vote of confidence has put an end to the 24-day government crisis and provides yet another indication that India's democratic institutions remain very strong.

Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister Gujral is committed to strengthening United States-India ties. He has assured foreign investors that he will support free market reforms and initiatives. These

reforms have opened India to United States businesses and industries. In a recent meeting with the Indian President Sharma, he assured the President that all the economic policies of the previous government will continue and be strengthened.

Prime Minister Gujral has already shown that given the opportunity he will bring peace to South Asia. His policies as Foreign Minister in the previous government have been coined as the Gujral Doctrine. He has already laid the groundwork to ease tensions in this traditionally volatile region. As Foreign Minister for Prime Minister Gowda, Mr. Gujral helped orchestrate the Bangladesh Water Agreement, a water treaty that ended years of dispute over water sharing rights between India and Bangladesh. He supervised an accord in which India and China agreed to reduce troops along the Himalayan border.

But most important, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gujral has vowed to improve relations with Pakistan and made this the priority of India's foreign policy. Mr. Gujral helped initiate peace talks between India and Pakistan after a lull of 3 years. He is confident that the two neighbors can reach agreement in many areas through bilateral talks, and on May 12 of this year Prime Minister Gujral and Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif will meet in the Maldives to discuss peace.

Mr. Speaker, what is extraordinary about these accomplishments is that they were achieved within 10 months since the united front first took charge of the Indian Government. An even stronger sign of Prime Minister Gujral's ability to bring peace to the region can be seen in the troubled region of Jammu and Kashmir. This morning Kashmiri leaders stated that they believe that the new Prime Minister could help normalize relations between Pakistan and India and bring peace to Kashmir. A popular Kashmiri separatist leader told Reuters News Service that if Mr. Gujral continues to be Prime Minister of India for a long period, I believe he can play a historic role in bringing India and Pakistan closer and solve the Kashmir problem.

Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister Gujral is India's third Prime Minister in the last 11 months. However, as we have seen, democracy remains strong and vibrant in India. As the Prime Minister said in a speech on Monday, we can change government but the system goes on, democracy continues, and it is strengthened.

As cochairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, I believe that Prime Minister Gujral can best lead India toward the 21st century, and I look forward to working with the Prime Minister in strengthening United States-India relations.

I want to also urge the Clinton administration, Members of this House and the Senate to support Prime Minister Gujral and assist him in bringing